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FOLDER N/A

Honorable D. H. Rucker
High Commissioner
Trust Territories
Agana, Guam

Dear Mr. Rucker:

As you know, following the receipt of your letter of September 2 I was fortunate enough to be able to meet with Mr. Lausi, Mr. Putnam and other officials of the Department of Interior interested in our common problem. Since that meeting Mr. Putnam has advised me that he talked with you on the phone and that you indicated your willingness to have a moderate-sized medical re-evaluation of the Rongelapese people with particular emphasis on the hematological aspects and the question of whether or not the body burdens of the fallout nuclides have increased since 1959. In regard to the latter, if the body burdens found at the 1961 study are not significantly higher than those reported in 1959 I would feel that, whereas from a strictly scientific standpoint it would be nice to continue such studies at frequent intervals, from a practical standpoint a re-do would not be absolutely essential for perhaps another three or four years.

I have talked with Dr. Conard and again urged him to keep the state-side people to a minimum, and further urged that he try to visit you in November at Guam so that you can talk with him directly concerning the specific planning. It would also be useful, I think, if he could see Dr. Macdonald at that time and, if Mr. Bess is no longer at Majuro, his replacement as District Administrator (Mr. Putnam indicated that Mr. Bess would be replaced probably in the near future). In any event, I want you to know that I totally sympathize with your problem, and I appreciate very much the cooperation which you continue to extend to our activities in the Trust Territories.

Sincerely yours,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Charles L. Dunham, M.D.
Director, Division of
Biology and Medicine

cc: Mr. Anthony T. Lausi
Dr. Robert A. Conard
Dr. Bruner, DBM

SURNAME ▶			DIR B&M	O/C Dept of Navy Medical Followup	
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